

Sinclair Broadcasting's partisan policy of coercing member stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Its use for the purpose of commercial self-interest is grounds for demanding that broadcasting companies pay market value to taxpayers for their misuse of this public domain. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. And it shows how wrong our legislators have been in giving away this vital component of democracy to corporations, free of charge. Thank you.